



FSU-NEW LANDS: Spring grain harvesting was well underway in Russia and Kazakhstan. In Russia, generally dry weather in Western Siberia allowed spring grain harvesting. However, rainy weather (10-35 mm) in the northern Urals and Eastern Siberia hampered harvest activities. Reports from Russia as of September 21 indicated that the grain was about 85 percent harvested. In Kazakhstan, mostly dry weather allowed grain harvesting to progress toward completion. Reports as of September 25 indicated that the grain harvest in Kazakhstan was about 91 percent completed. On September 23, the first hard freeze of the autumn (minimum temperatures ranging from -3 to -8 degrees C) extended as far south as central Kazakhstan, ending the growing season. Weekly temperatures averaged 1 to 4 degrees C below normal in Kazakhstan and Russia. In cotton-producing areas of Central Asia, mild, dry weather favored boll maturation and harvesting. In many areas, the cotton harvest is likely progressing ahead of schedule, due to favorable weather conditions.